



THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.



THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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No. 13.

Agricultural.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

How the Work of Organizing is Progressing.

MOUNT TABOR CLUB.

The farmers in the vicinity of Mt. Tabor met on Monday evening, 26th ult., for the purpose of organizing a Farmers' Club. Twenty names were enrolled. After adopting a constitution and by-laws the following officers were elected: President, F. W. Pfaff; Vice-President, David Endsley; Secretary, Thomas Ring; Treasurer, Junius Miller. An executive committee of five was chosen, composed as follows: J. L. Pratt, Isaac Petree, J. F. Ziegler, David Endsley and A. E. Pfaff.

The Club then took into consideration the question of purchasing fertilizers, and the president appointed a committee to investigate the question of prices, &c., and report to the club. It was found that the Club needed from 25 to thirty tons, and it was ascertained that by purchasing this amount it could be purchased at a figure that would save the purchasers in the aggregate about one hundred dollars, thus illustrating forcibly one of the points made in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER in the reasons given for the organization of such clubs.

The Club met again last Saturday evening, the proceedings of which we hope to give in our next issue.

CEDAR GROVE CLUB.

CEDAR GROVE, FORSYTH Co., N. C., May 1st, 1886.

The Club was called to order by the Chairman, I. N. Null. After reading the minutes of preceding meeting, the Club proceeded to elect the following officers: A. W. Bevel, was elected President; A. A. Crater, Vice-President, and J. M. Jarvis, Secretary and Treasurer.

The following new members were enrolled:

G. D. Conrad, A. L. Jones, S. A. Phelps, A. B. Mock, W. L. Ketter, Samuel Alspaugh, Leonard Ketter and J. C. Conrad were appointed an Executive Committee.

The following resolution was offered and unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, we, the members of this Club believe that in order to promote our interests as a class it is necessary for us to read agricultural literature and encourage our sons and daughters in reading the same. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we recommend THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER to the farmers of North Carolina as being in every sense worthy of their patronage. Col. L. L. Polk was introduced by the President, and made a very appropriate address which was much appreciated by the Club. He spoke among other important matters of the importance of the farmer raising his own meat and bread, which subject will be discussed at the next meeting of the Club which will be June 5th, at 1 o'clock P. M.

This Club is now thoroughly organized and fully equipped for business.

J. M. JARVIS, Sec'y.

ROCKY RIVER FARMERS' CLUB, CABARUS COUNTY.

This Club meets twice a month, has twenty-five members. It is in excellent working order and the members are much interested.—Among the many things done, looking to progress, is the effort to improve the breeds of stock belonging to the members. The Club has purchased a fine blooded Jersey bull and Berkshire boar. Rev. J. M. Wharey is President, and Prof. H. C. Dunn, of Harrisburg, Secretary.

A large meeting of the farmers of Davidson county will be held at Tyro, on next Saturday. The editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and others are invited to deliver addresses.

The farmers in the neighborhood of Bethania are moving for the organization of a Club.

—The Farmers' Club at Osgood, Chatham county, now numbers 30 members, and is increasing weekly.

A Farmers' Club has been organized at Pleasant Ridge, but we have not yet learned the names of the officers.

Remember the meeting of the farmers at Marvin's Chapel, on the 15th inst. A large crowd and a most pleasant time is expected.

South Fork Farmers' Club (Forsyth County) held a meeting at Cedar Grove on Saturday last, when quite a number of new members were enrolled, and a permanent organization was effected. The proceedings will appear in full in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Anson County has six regularly organized Farmers' Clubs, and they seem to be actively at work. They are discussing "the fence law, the fertilizer question, the road system, prohibition, the benefits to be derived from organization, the one crop system," &c., &c. We hope at an early day to lay before our readers more accurate information in regard to these organizations in this good old county.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA FARMERS' PROCEEDINGS of the Convention Held in Columbia.

In pursuance of the call previously made the Farmers' Convention assembled in Columbia on the 29th ult. It was a very large assemblage composed of representative farmers of the State, who met there not as partisans but to discuss the situation as it affected the agricultural classes of that State, and take steps to correct the grievances of which they complained. Among other proceedings they adopted the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, Congress, by Act of July 2, 1862, appropriated certain land scrip to the several States on condition that the proceeds of the sale of the same should become a fund, the interest of which should be used to sustain an agricultural and mechanical college for the education of the industrial classes in each State accepting said donation;

And whereas, South Carolina accepted this fund and entered into a contract with the United States to carry out in good faith the conditions of said trust, but has failed to do so;

And, whereas, the languishing agricultural interests of the State are in sore need of an institution which shall furnish a more practical and scientific training, at less cost, to those who desire to follow farming, than can now be obtained, while at the same time mapping out the system of farming which must be adopted to save our lands and redeem our agriculture;

And, whereas, a practical knowledge of the mechanic arts among people must be had before we can hope for that diversity of pursuits and introduction of manufactures so necessary to the prosperity of our agriculture, by giving a market for other farm products besides cotton; therefore be it resolved:

1st. That we respectfully urge the Legislature to establish, as soon as possible, a real agricultural and mechanical college, separate and distinct from the South Carolina College, and modelled after those of Michigan and Mississippi, which have stood the test of time and are acknowledged to be the best of their kind in the United States.

2d. That the control and management of said agricultural and mechanical college should be given to the board of agriculture, which shall locate the same at the most eligible site they can secure, after advertis-

ing for bids from the several counties.

3d. That an experimental station should be established at and in connection with said agricultural and mechanical college, the same to be under the charge of its faculty.

4th. That we memorialize Congress and beg it to pass the bill introduced by Mr. Hatch and now pending, which appropriates \$15,000 annually to each State for this purpose, and that we ask our Senators and Congressmen to use all legitimate means to secure its passage.

5th. That we protest against this money, if it shall be appropriated, being received by the present trustees of the South Carolina College. Their actions in the past show them to be disbelievers in industrial education. Moreover, if we are to have an agricultural college at all, every dollar spent on the agricultural annex at Columbia is so much wasted. And while we are willing to concede to these gentlemen honesty of purpose and pure intent, we do not acknowledge that lawyers and professional men are the proper ones to control an agricultural college and experimental station, any more than we claim that farmers ought to be chosen as Judges of our Courts. We do not admit that the legal fraternity possesses a monopoly of the brains and education in this State, and we want each shoemaker to stick to his own last.

6th. That in order that our agricultural administration may be divorced as far as possible from politics and politicians, in order that the men best qualified to perform these important duties be selected by those most competent to judge, in order that we may secure a board of agriculture at once efficient, zealous and representative, who know our needs and will try to supply them, we urge that instead of being chosen by the Legislature they be elected by a farmers' convention composed of delegates from each county agricultural society, which shall meet annually in November of each year at Columbia for this purpose. This Convention ought to also take into consideration all matters of legislation affecting our agricultural interest and make such recommendations to the Legislature about the same as they may deem proper. This board of agriculture should consist of ten, five elected annually. They should have the power to elect their own executive officer or secretary, whose duties would correspond with those of the present commissioner, and their duties would be the same as the law imposes on our present board, while, in addition, they would have control of the agricultural college and experimental station, and should, by means of "farmers' institutes," &c., build up and keep alive the several county societies and farmers' clubs.

8th. That in order to obtain the necessary funds to sustain the agricultural college, after the State shall have given enough to buy the farm and erect the necessary building, we recommend that the privilege tax on sale of fertilizers be doubled. The board would then get an income of over \$50,000 per year, and this, with the \$5,700 from the land scrip fund, would, we think, be enough to support the college, inspect the fertilizers, and hold farmers' institutes, without additional taxation, except a small indirect tax on guanos, which farmers will willingly pay to be guaranteed against fraud.

9th. That the inspection of fertilizers is now defective and unsatisfactory, and no adequate punishment for frauds provided. We, therefore, urge such additional legislation as will secure the needed protection without imposing unnecessary restraint upon the manufacture and sale of fertilizers. Cotton seed meal, whether sold as stock food or as a fertilizer, should be inspected; and adulteration punished. Stock owners will not mind the additional

charge to be sure of a wholesome and pure article.

10th. That the Citadel Academy, as a military school, be abolished, and that so much of the money now appropriated to its use as may be needed shall be given to the South Carolina college at Columbia, so as to make it a first-class institution for the training of young men for the professions and literature. A small tuition fee should be charged those entering there, but the trustees should be allowed to admit those unable to pay free of charge.

11th. That the State owes it to her daughters to provide an institution for their liberal and practical education; a school where they can be taught not only to adorn a drawing-room, but be fitted to perform the duties of life and become bread-winners if need be. A commonwealth which does not train its future mothers can never hope to achieve any high place in the civilization of to-day, and both justice and wisdom demand that our girls should have an equal chance with our boys. We recommend that such a school be opened at the Citadel in place of the military institution now in operation there, and that it be liberally supported by the State. We appeal to the women of South Carolina who feel the deficiencies of their own training, and have seen the utter helplessness of their sisters when left to their own resources, to aid in establishing an industrial college for females in our State like that of Columbus, Miss. If they cannot secure that prohibition which would banish alcohol, they can help banish that prohibition, ignorance, which now bars their sex in this State from all occupations except sewing, teaching and working in cotton factories.

12th. That a committee of seven, one from each Congressional district, be appointed by the chair, who will draft the memorial mentioned in these resolutions, and forward the same at once to our representatives at Washington; and that the said committee shall prepare bills, and have the same introduced in the next General Assembly, carrying out the spirit and purpose of these resolutions. Furthermore, that said committee shall go to Columbia when the Legislature meets and make such presentation of facts and arguments as will help secure their passage.

The movement has assumed such proportions that nearly every paper in the State devotes considerable space to notices of it. With few exceptions they candidly endorse it and commend its objects, while all concede the high character of the men who appeared in Columbia as the representatives of their brother farmers. We quote briefly from two of the leading papers in the State:

"THINKING FOR THEMSELVES.

If the Farmers' Convention had done nothing else but meet and discuss the various matters submitted to it on Thursday, it would have been worth all the trouble and expense of collecting together so large and influential a body of citizens. The resolutions offered, the questions debated and the practical suggestions made all go to show that the farmers of the State do their own thinking, and have the manliness to express their wishes and demand their rights. We do not think their judgment is right in ever instance, but we admire the independence they have displayed, because it is one of the most hopeful indications of the times and has introduced a powerful element into the forces which control society.

If the farmers of the State as a class will only profit by the object lessons given at Columbia this week, and discuss among themselves at home the public questions in the proper settlement of which their interests are so deeply involved; if they will study the economic and political problems of the day in their relation to the interests of the industrial classes, and then bring the full

force of mature conviction to bear in the exercise of their rights as citizens, there will never be any occasion for holding another convention.

In nearly every country community there is some local oracle whose superior wisdom and experience all questions of a political or social business nature are submitted. The work of the Farmers' Convention has shown that the influence of these men has been broken, and that hereafter the men who drive the plough intend to rule the State. This they can most effectively do by the exercise of a wise and conservative influence in primary political councils, and in selecting their best men to fill the offices and to administer the public trusts. In this way the welfare of the State will be best subserved, and the interests of the farmers most securely guarded."—*Charleston News and Courier, 1st inst.*

The Columbia Register says:

"Well, the long talked of Farmers' Convention has come and gone. It is, perhaps, the largest assemblage of farmers that has ever met in the State. As such it must command the attention, not only of the Register, but of every other journal in the State. Right or wrong, such a gathering of the chief agriculturists of the State must have, and ought to have, a very positive meaning for all the interests of the State.

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We honestly desire to see the intelligent farmers of the country moving abreast of the times and providing for themselves such an organization as is absolutely necessary to protect the farming class from the aggressive force of powerful combinations in so many other occupations. The farmers and planters of the South cannot afford to stand apart from each other any longer in this era of great combinations. Hit or miss, come what may, they must be united in order to live. We then see here a great business necessity, which we never more appreciated than we have done during the assemblage here of the great convention of South Carolina farmers."

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The farmers of our sister State are evidently waking up to the importance of looking after their own interests, and mean business. The farmers of North Carolina should keep abreast with them in this movement.

N. C. CANNED PEACHES.

We were shown to-day the fruits of a North Carolina manufactory, and an industry we have thought for a long time could be made to pay handsomely, considering the large amounts sold in all of our family grocery stores, and the growing tendency of our people to use canned goods. Messrs. A. J. Hart & Son, of Flat Rock, near Hendersonville, are putting up canned peaches. A shipment was made to Messrs. Brown & Weddington, of this city, in order to introduce the goods here. To all appearances they are superior to foreign canned goods, from the fact that they are fresh, and retain all of the fine flavor of the green peach. Large quantities of the most choice fruits are raised in the State and the Chronicle hopes to see more of it canned in the State. It is rather a bad policy for our people to sell their fruit in a green state to foreign buyers, and then buy the same goods from them canned. There must be money in the canning process right where the fruit is raised. It is these industries that will make our State grow and increase in wealth.—*Charlotte Chronicle.*

A GENTLE REMINDER.

The average life of a printer is 33 years. As we are considerably over 30, our patrons will see the immediate necessity of settling up, in order that we may have the pleasure of hearing the jingle of the wheel with before we shuffle of this mortal coil.—*Washington, N. C. Progress.*